NewsRelease

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Langley Research Center
Hampton, Virginia 23681-2199

Chris Rink
(757) 864-6786

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

Joint NASA Langley-Russian research satellite project close to launch -- Russian VIP to visit for mission review

A NASA remote-sensing satellite instrument that will monitor the atmospheric health of the Earth's upper atmosphere will be launched in early December on a Russian spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazahkstan.

Developed and managed by NASA Langley Research Center , the Stratospheric Aerosol and Gas Experiment III (SAGE III) is a remote sensing instrument that will fly aboard the Russian Meteor-3M spacecraft on a Ukraine-built Zenit-2 Rocket. SAGE III is expected to make precise measurements of the ozone, aerosols, water vapors and other gases so researchers can better understand how and why the climate is changing.

Leonid Alexeevich Makridenko, head of the Space Systems for Remote Sensing of the Russian Aviation and Space Agency (RASA), will visit NASA Langley for the SAGE III mission readiness review.

Media are invited to a news conference to meet Mr. Makridenko and members of the SAGE III Project team on Wednesday, Nov. 7, at 11 a.m., in the research labs of NASA Langley's Atmospheric Sciences Competency. There will be a photo opportunity of a SAGE III instrument that will fly in a different mission aboard the International Space Station in 2005. Members of the media who wish to attend should contact Chris Rink (757) 864-6786 to arrange for credentials and an escort on center.

The SAGE III/Meteor-3M is a joint partnership between NASA and RASA. The SAGE III instrument is part of NASA's Earth Science Enterprise, a long-term research effort being conducted to determine how human-induced and natural changes affect our global environment.

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